

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please enter the specification as amended during prosecution of the international application PCT//IL97/00161 and published in the International Preliminary Examination Report for that application, a copy of which is included herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS

✓
Please amend claims 7 and 9-10, 14 and 39 as follows:

B1
a2
7. (Amended) A polysaccharide sponge according to claim 1, wherein said sponge further comprises a cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of the salts of calcium, copper, aluminum, magnesium, strontium, barium, tin, zinc, chromium, organic cations, poly(amino acids), poly(ethyleneimine), poly(vinylamine), poly(allylamine), and polysaccharides.

a3
9. (Amended) A polysaccharide sponge according to claim 7, wherein said cross-linker is used in the form of a cross-linker solution having a concentration of cross-linker sufficient to provide a cross-linker concentration between about 0.1% to about 0.3% w/v in the final solution from which the sponge is obtained.

10. (Amended) A polysaccharide sponge according to claim 1, wherein said sponge is prepared from a polysaccharide solution with or without the addition of a cross-linker.